

# EE331 LAB 3: SERIES-PARALLEL CIRCUITS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of this lab exercise you should be able to:

1. Predict and measure node voltages and branch currents for a series-parallel network of resistors.
2. Verify KVL, KCL, and the principles of voltage and current division through the measurement of resistance, current, and voltage.

**REFERENCES:** (a) *Core Course Laboratory Manual*, 1999.  
(b) Hambley, *Electrical Engineering Principles and Applications*; Prentice Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.

**EQUIPMENT:** HP3468A multimeter  
Dual DC Power Supply (PS1)  
2 Variable Resistor Decade Boxes  
Resistors: 100  $\Omega$ , 220  $\Omega$ , 330  $\Omega$ , 470 $\Omega$ , 1k $\Omega$ , 2k $\Omega$

**SIGNALS:** None

1. Measure and record the values for the resistors you have been supplied in Table 1.

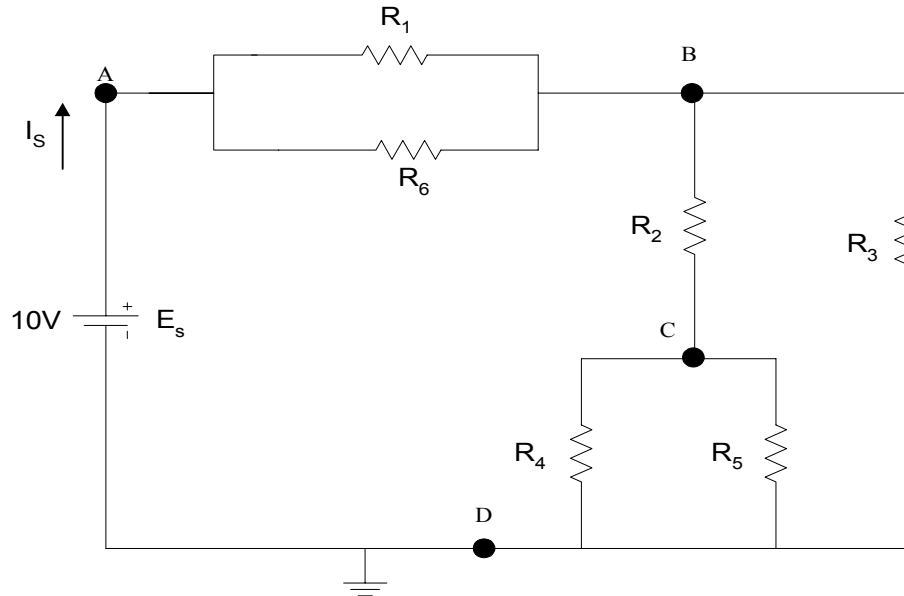
	Color Code				Nominal Value	Measured Value	% Difference	Within tolerance?
<b>R<sub>1</sub></b>					1k $\Omega$			Y/N
<b>R<sub>2</sub></b>					100 $\Omega$			Y/N
<b>R<sub>3</sub></b>					470 $\Omega$			Y/N
<b>R<sub>4</sub></b>					330 $\Omega$			Y/N
<b>R<sub>5</sub></b>					2k $\Omega$			Y/N
<b>R<sub>6</sub></b>					220 $\Omega$			Y/N

**Table 1**

$$* \% \text{ Difference} = \frac{(\text{DMM Measured Value} - \text{Nominal Value})}{\text{Nominal Value}} \times 100\%$$

(Negative % => Low)  
(Positive % => High)

2. “**VIP**” the circuit in Figure 1. Assemble the circuit on your quad board. Measure all currents and voltages. Enter your experimental results in the left hand column of Table 2. Enter your prelab values in the right hand column of Table 2.



**Figure 1**

	Voltage (exp) (prelab)		Current (exp) (prelab)		Power (exp) (prelab)	
$E_s$						
$R_1$						
$R_2$						
$R_3$						
$R_4$						
$R_5$						
$R_6$						

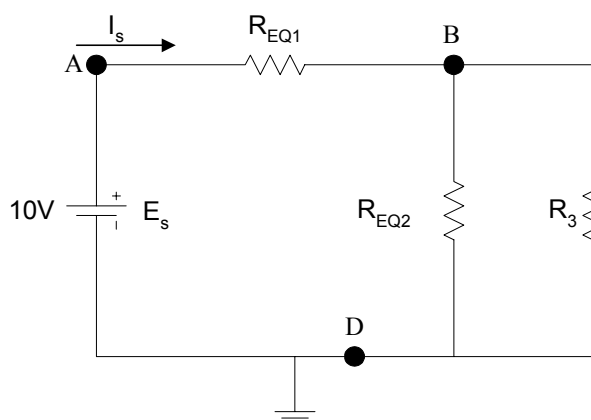
**Table 2**

3. Measure the following node voltages:

$$V_A = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \quad V_B = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \quad V_C = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \quad V_D = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$$

$$(\text{prelab values}) V_A = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \quad V_B = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \quad V_C = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \quad V_D = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$$

4. Set the variable decade resistance boxes to the values you determined for  $R_{EQ1}$  and  $R_{EQ2}$  in your prelab. Using the variable decade resistance boxes, replace resistors  $R_1$  and  $R_6$  with  $R_{EQ1}$ ; and  $R_2$ ,  $R_4$ , and  $R_5$  with  $R_{EQ2}$ . Be sure to measure the resistance of the decade box to verify that you have the desired equivalent resistance before connecting the box to the quad board. “VIP” the circuit in Figure 2. Measure all currents and voltages. Enter your experimental results in the left hand column of Table 3. Enter your prelab values in the right hand column of Table 3.



**Figure 2**

	Voltage (exp) (prelab)		Current (exp) (prelab)		Power (exp) (prelab)	
$E_s$						
$R_{EQ1}$						
$R_{EQ2}$						
$R_3$						

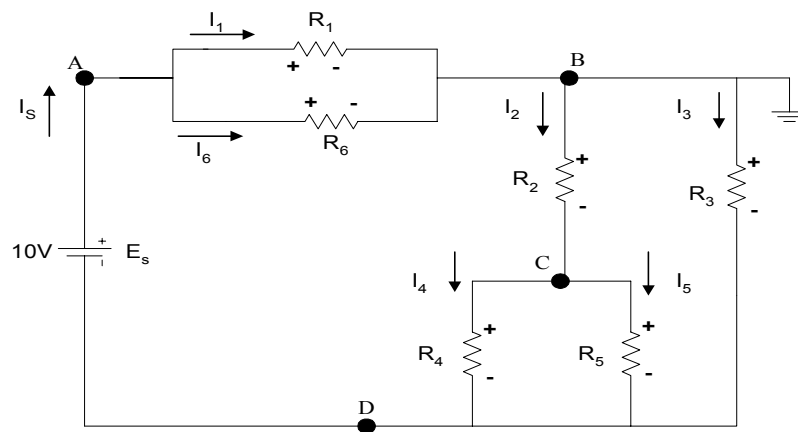
**Table 3**

5. Measure the following node voltages:

$$V_A = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad V_B = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad V_D = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$(\text{prelab values}) V_A = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad V_B = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad V_D = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

6. Rebuild the circuit of Figure 1, but move the common ground for the circuit to Node B as shown in Figure 3. For this part of the experiment, the “-” side of the supply voltage must NOT be connected to earth ground



**Figure 3**

7. Measure the following node voltages:

$$V_A = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad V_B = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad V_C = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad V_D = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$(\text{prelab values}) V_A = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad V_B = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad V_C = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad V_D = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

## 8. QUESTIONS

- Using your experimental results in Table 2, show that KCL held true at Node B.
- Using your experimental results in Table 2, show that KVL held true for the loop defined in your prelab (prelab Figure 3).
- Using your experimental results in Table 2, show that power supplied equals power dissipated.
- Using your experimental results in Table 3, show that KCL held true at Node B.
- Using your experimental results in Table 3, show that power supplied equals power dissipated.

f. Using the node voltage values you measured in part 7 (with the ground at Node B), determine the value of the voltage across resistors  $R_2$  and  $R_4$ .

$V_{R2}$  \_\_\_\_\_

$V_{R4}$  \_\_\_\_\_

g. How do the values you determined above for  $V_{R2}$  and  $V_{R4}$  compare to the values you measured in Table 2 with the ground located at Node D?

h. Did moving the ground from Node D to Node B change the amount of current following through resistors  $R_2$  and  $R_4$ ? Explain.